

CLAIMED INVENTION

What is claimed is:

1. A method for personalizing user content comprising:
monitoring a user's pattern of behavior; and
characterizing a type of user based upon a frequency of a similar pattern of behavior monitored;
wherein a user's profile can be updated according to the type of user and the user's profile is used to personalize user content.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the user's profile is used to filter content.

3. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the user's profile is used to update a preference profile, the preference profile used to filter content.

4. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein user information content is selected from the group consisting of broadcasts, digitally stored content, media and interactive content.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a user's pattern of behavior is selected from the group consisting of a pattern of viewing content and a pattern of accessing content.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the user's pattern of behavior comprises a user's pattern of viewing program content and said monitoring comprises classifying the user as a type of user and determining a user profile in accordance with the type of the user and the content viewed.

7. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the user's pattern of behavior comprises a user's pattern of viewing program content and said monitoring comprises

classifying the user as a type of user and determining user preferences in accordance with the type of the user and the content viewed.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the type of user is selected from the group consisting of a content surfer and a longtime watcher.

9. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein characterizing the user comprises recognizing at least one pattern of timing sequences of viewing program content and identifying similar viewing patterns a predefined number of times.

10. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein if a user is classified as a content surfer, the user's profile is updated after viewing content for a first period of time, and if the user is classified as a longtime watcher, the user's profile is updated after viewing content for a second period of time, the second period longer than the first period.

11. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising filtering content comprising:

filtering at a first level to remove content that does not fit into the user's profile; and

filtering at a second level to select content corresponding to the user's profile.

12. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the user's profile comprises user preferences.

13. The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising mapping metadata and content, wherein content that does not fit into the user's profile is identified by looking at mapped metadata.

14. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising managing a plurality of profiles, comprising:

storing at least a portion of a current profile, the at least a portion corresponding to a specified device;

identifying a selected profile; and

loading at least a portion of the selected profile corresponding to the specified device, wherein the specified device operates at least in part in accordance with the at least a portion of the selected profile

15. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising controlling a device using at least a portion of a profile comprising:

storing at least a portion of a current profile, the at least a portion corresponding to the device;

identifying a selected profile; and

loading at least a portion of the selected profile corresponding to the device wherein identifying is responsive to user input.

16. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising storing the user's profile on a removable media such that the media may be coupled to an alternate device, the alternate device responsive to the user's profile.

17. The method as set forth in claim 16, wherein the alternate device is responsive to the components of the profile within the alternate device's capabilities.

18. A method for filtering content comprising:

filtering at a first level to remove content that does not fit into the user's preferences; and

filtering at a second level to select content corresponding to the user's preferences, wherein the user's preferences identify content selected from the group consisting of content the user is interested in and content the user is not interested in.

19. The method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising mapping metadata and content, wherein filtering is performed using the mapped metadata to identify content.

20. The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein filtering at the second level corresponds to a current user's behavior profile session.

21. A method for managing multiple profiles on a device comprising:
storing at least a portion of a current profile, the at least a portion corresponding to the device;
identifying a selected profile; and
loading at least a portion of the selected profile corresponding to the device
wherein the device operates at least in part in accordance with the at least a portion of the selected profile.

22. The method as set forth in claim 21, wherein identifying is responsive to user input.

23. A method for utilizing at least one profile of at least one user, the method comprising:
storing the at least one profile on a removable media;
coupling the removable media to a device; and
configuring operation of the device in accordance with device components of the at least one profile.

24. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the device components are a subset of all the components of the behavior profile.

25. The method as set forth in claim 24, wherein the device components are selected as those applicable to the device.

26. The method as set forth in claim 23, further comprising removing the media from the device and coupling the media to an alternate device, wherein the operation of the alternate device is configured in accordance with alternate device components of the at least one behavior profile.

27. The method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the device components are different from the alternate device components.

28. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processing system, perform a method for personalizing user content comprising:

monitoring a user's pattern of behavior; and

characterizing a type of user based upon a frequency of a similar pattern of behavior monitored;

wherein a user's profile can be updated according to the type of user and the user's profile is used to personalize user content.

29. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein the user's profile is used to filter content.

30. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein the user's profile is used to update a preference profile, the preference profile used to filter content.

31. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein the user's pattern of behavior comprises a user's pattern of viewing program content and said monitoring comprises classifying the user as a type of user and determining a user preference profile in accordance with the type of the user and the content viewed.

32. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein the user's pattern of behavior comprises a user's pattern of viewing program content and said monitoring comprises classifying the user as a type of user and determining user preferences in accordance with the type of the user and the content viewed.

33. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein the type of user is selected from the group consisting of a content surfer and a longtime watcher.

34. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein characterizing the user comprises recognizing at least one pattern of timing sequences of viewing program content and identifying similar viewing patterns a predefined number of times.

35. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein if a user is classified as a content surfer, the user's behavior profile is updated after viewing content for a first period of time, and if the user is classified as a longtime watcher, the user's behavior profile is updated after viewing content for a second period of time, the second period longer than the first period.

36. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, further comprising filtering content comprising:

filtering at a first level to remove content that does not fit into the user's profile; and

filtering at a second level to select content corresponding to the user's profile.

37. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 36, wherein the user's profile comprises user preferences.

38. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 36, further comprising mapping metadata and content, wherein content that does not fit into the user's behavior profile is identified by looking at mapped metadata.

39. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, further comprising managing a plurality of profiles, comprising:

storing at least a portion of a current profile, the at least a portion corresponding to a specified device;

identifying a selected profile; and

loading at least a portion of the selected profile corresponding to the specified device, wherein the specified device operates at least in part in accordance with the at least a portion of the selected profile

40. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, further comprising controlling a device using at least a portion of a profile comprising:
storing at least a portion of a current profile, the at least a portion corresponding to the device;
identifying a selected profile; and
loading at least a portion of the selected profile corresponding to the device wherein identifying is responsive to user input.

41. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 28, further comprising storing the user's profile on a removable media such that the media may be coupled to an alternate device, the alternate device responsive to the user's behavior profile.

42. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 41, wherein the alternate device is responsive to the components of the profile within the alternate device's capabilities.

43. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processing system, perform a method for filtering content comprising:
filtering at a first level to remove content that does not fit into the user's preferences; and
filtering at a second level to select content corresponding to the user's preferences, wherein the user's preferences identify content selected from the group consisting of content the user is interested in and content the user is not interested in.

44. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 43, further comprising mapping metadata and content, wherein filtering is performed using the mapped metadata to identify content.

45. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 43, wherein filtering at the second level corresponding to a current user's behavior profile session.

46. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processing system, perform a method for managing multiple profiles on a device comprising:

storing at least a portion of a current profile, the at least a portion corresponding to the device;

identifying a selected profile; and

loading at least a portion of the selected profile corresponding to the device wherein the device operates at least in part in accordance with the at least a portion of the selected profile.

47. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 46, wherein identifying is responsive to user input.

48. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processing system, perform a method for utilizing at least one profile of at least one user, the method comprising:

storing the at least one profile on a removable media;

coupling the removable media to a device; and

configuring operation of the device in accordance with device components of the at least one profile.

49. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 48, wherein the device components are a subset of all the components of the behavior profile.

50. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 48, wherein the device components are selected as those applicable to the device.

51. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 48, further comprising removing the media from the device and coupling the media to an alternate device, wherein the operation of the alternate device is configured in accordance with alternate device components of the at least one behavior profile.

52. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 51, wherein the device components are different from the alternate device components.

53. A system comprising a processor configured to personalize user information content by monitoring a user's pattern of behavior and characterizing a type of user based upon a frequency of a similar pattern of behavior monitored; wherein a user's profile can be updated according to the type of user and the user's profile is used to personalized user information content.

54. The system as set forth in claim 53, further comprising a filter, wherein the user's profile is used to filter content.

55. The system as set forth in claim 53, further comprising a user preference profile, the user's profile used to update the user preference file, the user preference file used to used to filter content.

56. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein the processor is further configured to filter content using the user's profile.

57. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein the processor is further configured to update a preference profile, the preference profile used to filter content.

58. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein a user's pattern of behavior is selected from the group consisting of a pattern of viewing content and a pattern of accessing content.

59. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein the user's pattern of behavior comprises a user's pattern of viewing program content and said processor is configured to classify the user as a type of user and determine a user preference profile in accordance with the type of the user and the content viewed.

60. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein the user's pattern of behavior comprises a user's pattern of viewing program content and said processor is configured to classify the user as a type of user and determine preferences in accordance with the type of the user and the content viewed.

61. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein the type of user is selected from the group consisting of a content surfer and a longtime watcher.

62. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein the processor characterizes the user by recognizing at least one pattern of timing sequences of viewing program content and identifying similar viewing patterns a predefined number of times.

63. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein if a user is classified as a content surfer, the user's profile is updated after viewing content for a first period of time, and if the user is classified as a longtime watcher, the user's profile is updated after viewing content for a second period of time, the second period longer than the first period.

64. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein the processor is further configured to filter content by filtering to remove content that does not fit into the user's profile and filtering to select content corresponding to the user's profile.

65. The system as set forth in claim 64, wherein the process is further configured to map metadata and content, wherein content that does not fit into the user's profile is identified by looking at mapped metadata.

66. The system as set forth in claim 53, further comprising a profile management module to manage a plurality of profiles, the profile management module configured to store at least a portion of a current profile, the at least a portion corresponding to a specified device coupled to the profile management module and load at least a portion of a selected profile corresponding to the specified device, wherein the specified device operates at least in part in accordance with the at least a portion of the selected profile.

67. The system as set forth in claim 66, wherein processor comprises the profile management module.

68. The system as set forth in claim 66, wherein the processor is coupled to the processor.

69. The system as set forth in claim 53, further comprising a device controller configured to control a device using at least a portion of a profile the device controller configured to store at least a portion of a current profile, the at least a portion corresponding to the device and load at least a portion of a selected profile corresponding to the device wherein the selected profile is identified in responsive to user input.

70. The system as set forth in claim 69, wherein the processor comprises the device controller.

71. The system as set forth in claim 66, wherein the device controller is coupled to the processor.

72. The system as set forth in claim 53, further comprising removable media removably coupled to the processor and configured to store the user's behavior profile such that the media may be removed from being coupled to the processor and coupled to an alternate device, the alternate device responsive to the user's behavior profile.

73. The system as set forth in claim 72, wherein the alternate device is responsive to the components of the profile within the alternate device's capabilities.

74. The system as set forth in claim 53, wherein the processor is part of a system selected from the group consisting of a service provider, a set top box, a computer system, a broadcast receiver and a data receiving device.

75. A multiple level filter for filtering content comprising:
a first level filter configured to remove content that does not fit into a user's preferences; and

a second level filter configured to select content corresponding to the user's preferences, wherein the user's profile identifies content selected from the group consisting of content the user is interested in and content the user is not interested in.

76. The filter as set forth in claim 75, further comprising a map module configured to map metadata and content, wherein filtering is performed using the mapped metadata to identify content.

77. The filter as set forth in claim 75, wherein filtering at the second level corresponds to a current user's preferences session.

78. The filter as set forth in claim 75, wherein the filter accesses profiles of a plurality of users and the first level filter is configured to remove content that does not fit into the plurality of user profiles.

79. The filter as set forth in claim 75, wherein the filter is part of a system selected from the group consisting of a service provider, a set top box, a computer system, a broadcast receiver and a data receiving device.

80. The filter as set forth in claim 75, further comprising storage media, wherein the first level filter deletes content from the storage media.

81. A device comprising:
an operating module configured to control operation of the device responsive to a current user profile;
an input configured to receive a selection of an alternate profile;
a storage media configured to store the current profile in response to the selection of an alternate profile;
a loader configured to load the alternate profile wherein the device operates at least in part in accordance with the alternate profile.

82. The device as set forth in claim 81, wherein the input accepts user input.

83. The device as set forth in claim 81, wherein the input comprises a plurality of buttons selectable by the user.

84. The device as set forth in claim 81, wherein the device is selected from the group consisting of consumer electronics devices, devices that access interactive services, broadcast receivers, set top boxes and media devices.

85. A removable media configured to store at least one user profile wherein when coupled to a device, the operation of the device corresponds with device components of the at least one user profile.

86. The removable media as set forth in claim 85, wherein the device components are a subset of all the components of the user profile.

87. The removable media as set forth in claim 86, wherein the device components selected are those applicable to the device.

88. The removable media as set forth in claim 85, wherein when the media is removed from a first device and coupled to a second device, the operation of the second device is configured in accordance with second device components of the at least one user profile.

89. The removable media as set forth in claim 88, wherein the first device components are different from the second device components.

90. A device comprising:

a media port configured to couple a removable media, the removable media configured to store at least one profile;

a controller coupled to the media port and configured to receive a profile and operate the device in accordance with the profile.

91. The device as set forth in claim 90, wherein the device is operated in accordance with the profile and the device's capabilities, such that if the profile specifies a capability not found in the device, the specified capability is ignored.

92. The device as set forth in claim 90, wherein the device is part of a system selected from the group consisting of a set top box, a computer system, a broadcast receiver and a data receiving device.